



Portage Area JR/SR High School



A.L.I.C.E. Training

Emergency Response to a Variety of Public Dangers

On September 4th, 2019, students of the Portage Area Jr/Sr High School participated in a threat assessment training program called *A.L.I.C.E.* The program is designed to heighten student and staff awareness to a variety of dangerous situations that have occurred across the nation in public settings, including schools, colleges, and events. The situations include threats made against schools or public places, active trespassers looking to do harm, or building emergencies that require evacuation. The Jr/Sr High School will run several scenarios throughout the afternoon of **October 11** attempting to give our students and staff the latest possible strategies when it comes to a variety of dangers schools face.

The scenarios will include:

1. A trespasser on campus looking to do harm (NO WEAPONS will be present, an air horn will be used to simulate a firearm.)
 - a. while students are in the classroom
 - b. while students are changing classes
2. Quick evacuation due to chemical spill, fire, or threat in our building

The program we will be implementing is called *A.L.I.C.E.* which is in line with the most recent guidelines issued by major law enforcement agencies across the United States including the Department of Homeland Security.

A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym that stands for:

- A**-Alert (Be aware of your surroundings, use all of your senses to identify threats and solutions)
- L**- Lockdown (Seek shelter or shelter with barricade when necessary)
- I**-Inform (Provide accurate real time details regarding the situation)
- C**-Counter (When danger is imminent, take action to protect yourself in a life threatening event)
- E**-Evacuate (Get out and to a safe location, communicate you are safe using a variety of technologies)

Students were briefed during a September presentation, prior to the scenarios being run. Following the activity students will have the opportunity to offer feedback and the staff will be debriefed to further investigate effective strategies.

Students that are unable/unwilling to participate will be casual observers in the drill.

We view this training to be a significant part of maintaining a safe and positive school culture. Providing our staff and students with the tools to make decisions in difficult times will prepare us for situations we hope we never have to face.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our schools.